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RECEIVED

October 15, 2001

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Ms. Carol Hanlon
U.S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

As you know, the Department of Energy has conducted a lengthy and thorough study of Yucca Mountain as a repository for spent nuclear fuel. During that process, the Department sought frequent reviews of this work by regulatory, advisory and scientific peer groups. Teams of scientists from the various national laboratories as well as the peer review groups have found the Department's work to be solid. They found no issues that would disqualify the research or the findings of the study.

I am writing you today to ask that you make your decision and recommendation based on the science and the facts in this matter. This recommendation should not be made based on local or national politics, but on the scientific and technical merits of the site.

A safe and reliable repository will strengthen our country's energy future. It is imperative that we focus on the national good, which will be served by siting a national repository. This should have been done more than a decade ago. Sadly, the delays are a testimonial to the effectiveness of political sandbagging and bureaucratic red tape. This makes us seem weak and ineffective. I urge you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Senator Patricia S. Hale

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